

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add section headings.

The indication that claim 34 has been allowed is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claim 34 has been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claims 20 and 30 thereto.

Claim 20 has been amended and claims 27-29 have been canceled. Further, the claims have been amended to make editorial changes to place them in a form more suited to U.S. practice. New claims 39-40 have been added. Support of the helix (43) claimed therein is found in Figure 2.

Claims 20-21 and 27-29 were rejected as anticipated by ITO et al. 5,935,374. Claim 20 has been amended and claims 27-29 have been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 20 provides that the gas supply line (43) has a first portion (44) connected to a fixed potential and a second portion (42) connected to the gas inlet pipe (30) and includes, between the first portion and the second portion, an electrically conductive material, the gas supply line (43) being wound helically against and spaced from the electrically insulating assembly (34), so that production of electrical discharges inside the gas inlet pipe (30) is inhibited.

None of the references discloses that the gas supply line is wound helically as claimed in amended claim 20. As is shown in Figure 2 of the present application, a helical winding is a spiral with increasing radius. The references show a coil with a constant radius, not a helical winding.

Further, amended claim 20 provides that the radiation is electromagnetic radiation. ITO et al. describe an electronic device fabrication apparatus suitable for plasma chemical deposition using ionic beam radiation. There is no suggestion to the artisan that the ITO et al. apparatus would produce electromagnetic radiation.

Accordingly, amended claim 20 avoids the rejection under §102. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is allowable therewith for the same reasons.

Claims 22-26, 35-36, and 38 were rejected as unpatentable over ITO et al. in view of AHMAD et al. 2003/0068012. Claims 30-33 were rejected as unpatentable over ITO et al. in view of BORISOV et al. WO 02/07484. Claim 37 was rejected as unpatentable over ITO et al. in view of KOSHELEV et al. EP 1 170 982 A1. These claims depend from claim 20 and are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

New claims 39-40 include a gas supply line that is wound helically around the gas inlet pipe in one plane that is generally perpendicular to an axis of the gas inlet pipe. The

references do not disclose or suggest this arrangement of the gas supply line. They suggest a coil that is not wound helically. Further, the coil in the prior art does not have a radially interior portion connected to the gas inlet pipe and a radially exterior portion connected to a fixed potential. Accordingly, the new claims avoid the art of record.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Thomas W. Perkins/

Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lrs